

Morning Herald.

No. 5614.—VOL. XXXVII.

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 1886.

PRICE SIX PENCE.

BIRTH.

At Rushmore, on the 24th April, the wife of William R. of a son.

DEATHS.

At Windsor, on Thursday, the 1st instant, Elizabeth Henrietta Somers, aged 39 years, deceased, leaving a widow and three children.

On the 5th of May, 1886, after a few days' illness, at the residence of her parents, No. 18, Cadogan-square, South, Margaret Mary Thomas, daughter of James and Ann Cosgrove, aged 15 years and 3 months.

At his residence, Fairy Meadow, Illawarra, on Saturday evening, 3rd May, of disease of the heart, Mr. Alexander Thomson, 71-year-old, aged 49 years, deeply regretted.

On the 4th instant, at his residence, George-street, Mr. James Slade, in the 73rd year of his age, after a short illness, William B. Goodman, Esq., Inspector of the Church of England School.

On Wednesday, January 16th, at Prospect-place, Colman Row, Bristol, England, Louis Anne, third daughter of Thomas Evans, Esq., of the above place, and sister of H. Rupert Evans, Esq., of St. Philip's Grammar School, in this city, aged 27 years.

On the 4th instant, at his residence, St. Germain's, Clero, after two and a half years' suffering from an affection of the lungs, in the twenty-eighth year of his age, George Johnstone Hill, third and youngest son of the late Alexander Hill, Esq., of Stilton, County Cavan, New South Wales, formerly of Rose Bank, Glenageary, N.S.W.

SHIP ADVERTISEMENTS.

BALMAIN NEW STEAM FERRY, from the Belbe Wharf, off of Erskine-street.

STEAM TO BALMAIN, from the Gas Company's Wharf every 15 minutes.

STEAM TO CREMORNE,—This day, Tuesday, (weather permitting), from 11 o'clock a.m. to 8.30 p.m. One shilling there and back. Music and dancing from 8.30 to 10.

STEAM TO MANLY BEACH,—This day, from the Phoenix Wharf at 10 and 2 o'clock; returning from Manly Beach at 10 and 5 p.m. Fare, 1s. 6d.; children, 1s.

The boat will call at Woolloomooloo Bay as usual.

STEAM TO KILMARA,—The Kilmara S.S. Company's steamer KILMARA will leave the Victoria Wharf, off of Erskine-street, for KILMARA THIS EVENING, at 10 o'clock.

STEAM TO THE HUNTER,—The powerful mail steamship PATTERSON, Captain R. L. PATTERSON, for Morpeth, THIS EVENING, at 11 o'clock.

STEAM TO THE HUNTER AT REDUCED RATES,—The THISTLE, Wilson, commander, THIS EVENING, at 11 o'clock.

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Alison mentioned that during the assault on the Redan, an English officer led a small party of soldiers up to one of the guns placed in a recess of the Redan and most of the men fell before the tremendous fire with which they were received. The others were received by a body of Russians, and the English officer was about to be bayoneted, when he managed to escape the hand of a Russian officer, and had presence of mind enough to give him a masonic grip. The Russian in a moment struck up the bayonet of his soldier, let his newly found brother to the rear, and treated his

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

May 5.—Yarra Yarra (s.), 320 tons, Captain Bell, from Melbourne Bay, 3rd instant; the Yarra Yarra (s.), 320 tons, Captain Bell, from Melbourne Bay, 3rd instant; the Yarra Yarra (s.), 320 tons, Captain Bell, from Melbourne Bay, 3rd instant.

DEPARTURES.

This Day.—Chertsey, for Wellington; Prima Donna, for Port Phillip; Chertsey, for Wellington; Prima Donna, for Port Phillip.

COASTERS INWARDS.

May 5.—Warwick, 100 tons, Captain Bell, from Melbourne Bay, 3rd instant; the Warwick (s.), 100 tons, Captain Bell, from Melbourne Bay, 3rd instant; the Warwick (s.), 100 tons, Captain Bell, from Melbourne Bay, 3rd instant.

COASTERS OUTWARDS.

May 5.—Jane Somerville, 100 tons, Captain Bell, for Melbourne Bay, 3rd instant; the Jane Somerville (s.), 100 tons, Captain Bell, for Melbourne Bay, 3rd instant; the Jane Somerville (s.), 100 tons, Captain Bell, for Melbourne Bay, 3rd instant.

MAILS BY THE ROYAL CHARTER.

General Post Office, Sydney, April 25, 1856. Notice is hereby given, that mails will be made up and despatched Melbourne on the 22nd proximo.

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antecedents. Thus meeting on equal ground, and entitled equally to the courtesy due to their lofty character, they are able to discuss at ease the interests of their respective nations.

But what would be the position of gentlemen who hold in traditional and conscientious reverence the priestly office of their spiritual chiefs? Would they bear with patience the opinions of their superiors analysed, exposed, and laid bare? Would they endure with coolness that tone, if not of insult yet of triumph, with which oratory closes a victorious period, or partisanship rejoices in an opponent's defeat? There is no equality in the terms. The freedom of debate demands that all who share it should, at least, be able to meet face to face, in the capacity in which their functions unite them; that they should meet on level ground; that there should be a clear stage and no favour.

Not only, however, will the difficulty be great in any case, when the opinion of a member of the Upper House is strongly opposed to the ecclesiastical views of the spiritual bench; still greater mischief will arise when the discussions shall turn, as they must, upon points on which the different denominations take up different views. We can easily suppose that there is a circle in which all would be harmonious; that upon some subjects one view might prevail; but there are questions, such as education, which might probably give rise to most serious disputation. We know with what force certain ideas of religious truth operate upon the men who not only hold them as their creed, but are bound in honour to defend them as the task of their profession. We have no wish to exaggerate the differences between our fellow-citizens; but it would be utterly absurd to profess ignorance of the fact that there are points upon which close upon matters of civil interest and political arrangements, on which the sentiments of religion will be co-operated, and men placed in direct opposition to each other. Controversies of this kind among laymen are bitter enough, but they are qualified by the equality of their position, and the sense of fair play which tolerates what is not absolutely intended to be offensive. But we cannot expect—for it would compromise their professional dignity—that gentlemen whose chief office in the House must be to expound the mixed questions of theology and politics, would endure the sharp rattling musketry of rival systems. The House and the country would see the feelings which different views generate, subject to most perilous explosions—perhaps with intervals of artificial courtesy veiling the magazines of distrust—but ever prepared for a new spark. All this is clear enough if we turn to some colonial not very distant from us. It is fortunate that in this colony, the men who give a tone to the ecclesiastical life are distinguished by moderation and gentleness of spirit. However strong, however conscientious their differences; however difficult they might find co-operation; however a close contiguity might occasionally overcome the reserve which courtesy and kindness impose, at present we are spared those exhibitions which dishonour our common Christianity, when they are carried one step beyond the threshold of the Church.

The nomination of these gentlemen has been made, we presume, partly in deference to the views of Sir WILLIAM DENISON, and partly in harmony with the Church Act of Sir ROBERT BOURKE. But it proceeds upon the supposition that it is necessary for the churches whose secular interest is involved to have some organ in the Upper House. If this be the case, what kind of confidence can these out of four of the denominations have in their colleagues? We quite agree with the principle, that selection for public office should be quite independent of all merely religious considerations. If, therefore, it happen that the members of the Anglican Church are the only persons in the community who are considered fit to constitute an Upper Chamber, they are entitled, because they are so fit, to have the preference. But in what position will the Roman Catholic, or the Wesleyan denomination, find themselves in a House so constituted? If religious predilections are to be really the basis of our future legislation, then it follows that the three denominations will be dependent upon the ability and influence of three gentlemen chosen to represent them, or, in other words, they will have each one, or, by their combination, three members of the House to battle for their separate or joint interests against the whole body. As a system of protection, therefore, it is absurd. On looking over the list of gentlemen nominated, we see sincerely that we believe the majority would scorn to take advantage of the position in which nomination places them. They will deal, to the best of their knowledge, with the best interests of the colony from another point of view, and with a fair consideration of all who have made this country their home. But if this trust can be reposed in them by other denominations than their own, then it is certainly no hardship for the Church with which they are in communion to confide in their vigilance to protect its interests from every infringement. We can imagine the helpless feeling with which a representative of the Wesleyan or even the Roman Catholic Church would address a body theologically opposed, over the decisions of the House are exposed to the government, and the self-interest of a communion. We do not see, however, that the Ministry were shut up to the choice of men of one Church only. It would have been more graceful had they sought in a wider circle the elements of that House which is to inspire the confidence of the property and intelligence of the country. Of course it is easy to pursue conjectures and trace appointments to various social or mercantile preferences, but we give credit for integrity to the nominators, and merely regret that they were not better acquainted with the colony, and with the men who will largely influence its opinions before they had finished their selection.

There is, however, an objection to these spiritual nominations, which we have already briefly stated—that it is impossible for gentlemen who may occupy the ecclesiastical bench to meet the views and wishes of their spiritual religious connections. We find that in all denominations the two great divisions of the political world are found existing. The parties who represent these tendencies probably each derive a portion of their strength from every indissolubly necessary that political topics should be excluded from all religious societies. A very few days' discussion would scatter them to the four winds. That feeling of brotherhood which centres in a common faith and a common hope would perish under the hot blast of a political smother. This political division of opinion will show some day or other in our legislative bodies. While, however, the two relations of the citizen and the religious man are kept thoroughly distinct, each individual may enjoy his own political preferences without materially disturbing his friendly footing with members of his own faith. But what would be the feeling of an ecclesiastical in the

Upper House should a question arise affecting the sale of land, or the distribution of electoral power, or vote by ballot, or any of those points, which have taken a strong hold upon the imagination and interest of the masses? No doubt, a conscientious man would vote in harmony with his own view of public good; but how often at a sacrifice, utterly uncompensated by any political advantage his assistance as a legislator would confer! These truths ought to have been known to the gentlemen upon whom has devolved the duty of selecting the Upper House. That they have blundered so far is one of those unhappy omens which better auspices may conquer, but which are, nevertheless, alarming to their friends.

If rumour be correct they are likely to be saved from the mischief which a mistaken policy on this subject would create by the superior understanding of the eminent gentlemen to whom they have offered seats in the Legislature. We are glad to hear in several quarters that Archbishop POLDOS will decline the futile honour. We were long ago informed that it was not the desire of the BISHOP OF SYDNEY to accept it. In fact their position would not be exalted by the strife of parties.

Since the above was written we have heard, and are enabled to state confidently, that the BISHOP OF SYDNEY has unreservedly declined the proffered seat in the Council. We believe the course taken will add lustre to the reputation of his Lordship—such as in a colony like this could never have attended a legislative career. The statement we made in yesterday's Herald, respecting Archbishop POLDOS's refusal, is also confirmed; and the intention of the Rev. W. B. ROYCE to decline it, we believe, considered certain.

The general purport of the recent Minute of the Lords of the Treasury on the question of Steam Communication between Great Britain and Australia has already been explained to our readers. The Minute itself will be found reprinted in another column. It is an able document, most probably the composition of Mr. WILSON himself, whose name appears at the foot. It shows a fair acquaintance with the subject, and deals with it in a comprehensive and equitable spirit. No scheme could be proposed that would be perfectly satisfactory to all parties, or gratify the local jealousies entertained by each of the colonies. But mere jealousies must be made to give way in a matter of this kind, and that plan which has generally the greatest recommendations must be generally adopted. Nothing is said positively in the Minute as to the route to be adopted, though their Lordships state that hitherto the East Indian has been found to be the most preferable. The tenders, however, are open to public competition, and the advocates of the Cape route, the Panama route, and the Torres Straits route, are at free to enter the field as the Peninsular and Oriental Company.

If the peace rumours that are now afloat should be really well founded, and the war be drawing to a close, the competition between rival steamboat companies may again become brisk. The successful voyage of the Royal Charter has drawn attention to the capabilities of the Cape route, and the company to which that vessel belongs are not likely to be slow in following up the advantage they have gained. The General Screw Steamship Company are also said to be prepared to enter as rivals into the same trade. They have recently sold all their vessels to the French Government, but at making arrangements to furnish themselves with a new fleet of steamships—a fleet expressly adapted to the requirements of the Australian service. And experience having shown that fully equipped steamships are not adapted for the long voyage from England to Australia, they propose to adopt the same plan, the correctness of which has been so completely proved in the case of the Royal Charter, viz., to provide large clipper ships, furnished with an auxiliary screw to be used whenever occasion requires. Other parties will, no doubt, be willing to come forward and develop the route via Panama, the possibilities of which were first demonstrated by the Golden Age. It is utterly impossible that the broad and placid waters of the Pacific, which invite to traffic, can long remain unploughed by the keels of steam vessels, when it waters on one side the rising empire of Australia, and has on the other an isthmus towards which a mighty commerce is converging. If the war should soon come to a close, the great steamships released from the claims of the transport service will be abundant, and their owners will only be too happy to find their employment. Some of them are pretty sure to find their way into the waters of the Pacific. A trade which promises to prove so profitable as that between Panama and Australia, if carried on with perseverance and regularity, is hardly likely to remain neglected at a time when steamship proprietors are on the look-out for remunerative occupation for their vessels.

There is every probability, therefore, that the call for tenders on the part of the Lords of the Treasury for the performance of the Australian Mail service will be responded to from several quarters. The Peninsular and Oriental Company are not likely to have a monopoly of the ground. This competition will have a wholesome effect. It will put the successful company on its mettle, and prevent any extravagant overcharges for the service rendered.

Meanwhile the Australian colonies have no better course open before them than just to leave the settlement of the bargain in the hands of the British Government, and to pay cheerfully whatever subsidy may be demanded. It is their only remaining chance of getting steam communication resumed with any promptitude or certainty. They have proved unable to undertake the service themselves; they are not in a position to negotiate separately with the great steam companies in England, and they are so irreconcilably at variance with each other as to the details of any scheme that has as yet been proposed, that they cannot negotiate in common. The only resource left is to make use of the proffered agency of the British Government. Let the Lords of the Treasury make the best terms they can with some really efficient company, and then let the colonial moiety of the expense whatever it may be, be ratably apportioned amongst the several colonies benefited. This plan, if it does not secure for each colony all that it would like, will at least secure for all the utmost that is at present attainable. Any scheme that will distribute English news over these colonies in sixty days, no matter by what route the news may come, will be better than the present miserable and unsatisfactory state of things, and will be well worth whatever money it may cost. It is only a waste of time for the colonies to stand aloof from one another till they have settled all their differences. Let them unite to secure the great desideratum first; minor matters may be adjusted at leisure afterwards.

THE BANK RETURNS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1856.

The sworn Returns of our Colonial Banks, for the quarter ended 31st March, 1856, compared with those of several previous quarters, show the subjoined particulars.

I. LIABILITIES.

The first column under the head of Liabilities gives the amount of

NOTES IN CIRCULATION.

The aggregate amount of Note Circulation in each of the last five quarters was as follows:—

1855—March £1,327,500

June 1,334,000

September 1,281,000

December 1,235,000

1856—March 1,235,800

We have here a decrease in the last three months of £2400; in the last six months, of £17,200; in the last nine months, of £100,200; and in the last twelve months, of £39,700.

The decrease on the quarter was at the rate of about one-fifth per cent; that on the year at the rate of seven per cent.

The amount of notes in circulation by the Banks respectively, during each of the last two quarters, was as follows:—

New South Wales £843,800

Commercial 180,100

Australia 107,100

Union 147,800

Joint Stock 78,400

English 16,800

Oriental 33,200

Four of the banks show an increase, and four a decrease.

New South Wales £843,800

Commercial 180,100

Australia 107,100

Union 147,800

Joint Stock 78,400

English 16,800

Oriental 33,200

The aggregate amount of bills in circulation last quarter was £359,900, being about £7000 more than in the preceding quarter.

The next head of liabilities to the public is that of

DEPOSITS.

The aggregate amounts were as under:—

1855—March £4,638,900

June 4,655,400

September 4,614,400

December 4,628,100

1856—March 4,628,100

We have here an increase on the quarter of £11,700, or two and a-half per cent; and a decrease on the year of £8,800, or not quite one-fifth per cent.

The amount of deposits held by the Banks severally in each of the last two quarters was as follows:—

New South Wales £1,895,500

Commercial 807,000

Australia 511,000

Union 591,300

Joint Stock 165,600

English 71,400

Oriental 64,600

Here also four of the Banks show an increase, and four a decrease.

New South Wales £1,895,500

Commercial 807,000

Australia 511,000

Union 591,300

Joint Stock 165,600

English 71,400

Oriental 64,600

The first head of assets is that of

COIN AND BULLION.

The aggregate amounts were:—

1855—March £1,650,500

June 1,648,000

September 1,775,600

December 1,972,200

1856—March 2,229,500

The amount of coin and bullion held last quarter was greater than that held in any of the preceding four. The increase on the quarter was £267,000, or thirteen per cent; the increase on the year was £579,000, or thirty-five per cent.

The amount of coin and bullion held by the Banks respectively in each of the last two quarters was

